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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (currently amended) A distal protection device comprising a catheter having a proximal end portion, a distal end portion, and a cylindrical wall extending from the proximal end portion to the distal end portion along a longitudinal axis and having a sidewall formed therein and a slot first and second slots formed in a portion of the sidewall, the slots extending parallel to the longitudinal axis and positioned proximal of a distal end of the catheter to form first and second openings in the sidewall, the first and second slots spaced apart radially and separated by a portion of the sidewall extending along the longitudinal axis, a single flexible member forming first and second loop openings, the flexible member movable from a first retracted position within the openings to a second looped position extending laterally with respect to the catheter and through the openings in the sidewall such that the first loop opening extends substantially in a direction of blood flow as the first loop opening lies in a plane substantially parallel to a transverse axis of the catheter and the second loop opening extends substantially in a direction of blood flow as the second loop opening lies in a plane substantially parallel to a transverse axis of the catheter, and filtering material movable from a collapsed position to an expanded position in response to movement of the flexible member, the filtering material allowing blood flow therethrough while capturing embolic material dislodged by a treatment device.

2. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible member is contained within the catheter in the first position so the cross sectional dimension of the catheter at a portion containing the flexible member does not exceed other cross-sectional dimensions of the catheter.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible member loops in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the catheter.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein in the looped position, the two loops are radially spaced.

7. (original) The device of claim 6, wherein the loops extend in opposite directions with respect to the catheter so in the looped position the loops are approximately 180 degrees apart.
8. (currently amended) The device of claim 6, wherein the loops are axially offset so that one loop is positioned distally of the other loop along the longitudinal axis.
9. (currently amended) The device of claim 5 4, wherein the first and second loops are axially offset so that one loop is positioned distally of the other loop.
10. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising an actuating member movable from a first position to a second position to move the flexible member into the looped position.
11. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the filtering material automatically moves back from the expanded position to the collapsed position upon movement of the actuating member back to the first position.
12. (currently amended) A distal protection device comprising a catheter having ~~an opening~~ first and second slots extending parallel to a longitudinal axis of the device and forming first and second openings in a portion of a sidewall spaced proximally from a distal end of the sidewall, the first and second openings spaced apart radially and separated by a portion of the sidewall, a single flexible wire positioned within the catheter and movable from a first position having a lower profile for insertion of the catheter to a second position extending laterally from the catheter and through the sidewall, in the second position the single wire forms first and second loops extending laterally such that a first end of the wire extends in a proximal direction and a second end of the wire extends in a distal direction with the loops therebetween each having an opening extending in a proximal to distal direction, and filtering material disposed over at least a portion of the wire and movable from a collapsed position to an expanded position in response to movement of the wire, at least a portion of the filtering material being retracted within the catheter and unexposed during insertion of the catheter, the filtering material in the expanded position allowing blood flow therethrough while capturing embolic material dislodged by a treatment device.

13. (original) The device of claim 12, further comprising an actuating member for moving the wire into the second position.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A distal protection device comprising a catheter, a flexible member positioned and movable from a first position to a second looped position extending laterally with respect to the catheter, such that in the second looped position a loop opening is formed lying in a plane that is non-aligned with a longitudinal axis of the catheter, the flexible member being movable between the first and second positions by user control, and self-retracting filter material movable from a an original collapsed position to an expanded position in response to movement of the flexible member, wherein the filter material automatically moves from the expanded position back to the original collapsed position upon movement of the flexible member back to the first position, in the first position, at least a portion of the flexible member is retracted within the catheter and unexposed, and in the expanded position the filtering material allowing blood therethrough while capturing material dislodged by a treatment device.

16. (original) The device of claim 15, wherein the catheter has an opening in a sidewall through which the flexible member extends when moved to the second looped position.

17. (withdrawn) A distal protection device comprising of an outer tube, an inner core, a first inner filter having a series of openings of a first dimension and a second outer filter having a series of openings of a second dimension smaller than the first dimension, at least a portion of the outer filter positioned external of at least a portion of the inner filter.

18. (withdrawn) The device of claim 17, further comprising a ring positioned on a proximal end of the outer filter.

Please add the following claims:

19. (new) The device of claim 1, wherein the loops are axially offset so that one loop is positioned distally of the other loop along the longitudinal axis.

20. (new) The device of claim 12, wherein the loops are axially offset so that one loop is positioned distally of the other loop along the longitudinal axis.